

Claims

1. Re-sealable strip device for drying and storage of micro-organisms comprising
 - 5 - a strip comprising a water absorbent preparation containing at least one water absorbent substance and at least one protective substance
 - a re-sealable housing which when being sealed provides a closed, water-impermeable system around the strip.
- 10 2. Re-sealable strip device according to claim 1, characterised in that the water absorbent preparation incorporates one or more substances that have both protective and water absorbent properties.
- 15 3. Re-sealable strip device according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the primary water absorbent preparation further comprises one or several absorbent bibulous foam or fibre-based pads or other matrices.
- 20 4. Re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the water absorbent preparation is in contact with or in proximity to a secondary water absorbent preparation.
- 25 5. Re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the secondary water absorbent preparation has the format of one or several absorbent beads, tablets, plugs, bibulous foam or fibre-based pads enclosed within the strip device.
- 30 6. Re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the re-sealable housing is a foil pouch.
7. Re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the re-sealable housing comprises one or more access windows over each of which there is a water impermeable cover

- 46 -

that can be opened and re-sealed such that once re-sealed the device regains its water impermeable properties.

5 8. Re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the re-sealable housing has a label.

9. Re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that the re-sealable housing has a secondary tear or peel seal which can be opened in order to aseptically remove the strip.

10

10. Process for the drying and storage of viable micro-organisms by
a) providing a re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 9;

15 b) opening a re-sealable access window cover in the housing of the strip device to gain access to the strip;

c) adding the micro-organism preparation to be dried through the said window on to the water absorbent preparation located on the strip;

d) sealing the strip device by closing the re-sealable window cover on said housing;

20 e) storing the strip device,

whereby the amount of the micro-organism preparation and the amount of the water absorbent preparation within the device are chosen such that after the addition of the micro-organism preparation the water absorbent preparation is able to absorb the water contained in the micro-organism preparation and remain substantially dry.

25

11. Process according to claim 10, characterised in that, after step e), the micro-organisms are recovered by

f) opening the strip device and removing the strip from the housing;

30 g) rehydrating the micro-organisms.

- 47 -

12. Process according to claim 10 or 11, characterised in that, in step e), the strip device is stored at a temperature between 0°C and 30°C .

5 13. A kit for drying and storage of micro-organisms at least comprising a re-sealable strip device according to one or more of claims 1 to 9.

10

15

20

25

30